



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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OUR NEW INTAKE COORDINATOR

Dixie Bunker comes to Northern Community Mediation with wonderful credentials. Not only does she have an Associates of Science in Paralegal Studies degree, she has experience in working as a paralegal in a local law office. Also, she has management experience in the business world.



Today (Monday, November 3) is Dixie's first day on the job At NCM. She will begin by handling all of the small claims cases. With her knowledge, however, she will soon be involved with many other types of cases. You will have an opportunity to meet Dixie this **Wednesday, November 5**. So, be certain to stop by between **4:30pm and 6:00pm**.

FAREWELL TO BERT

Speaking of **Wednesday, November 5 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm**, I want to encourage everyone to stop by NCM to say good-bye to Bert and wish her well in her new position with the Inland Lakes School District. Bert began working for NCM on February 14, 2006. You do the math. That is almost nine years that she made a significant difference in the quality of services offered by NCM. She was a major contributor in strengthening many of our programs, specifically the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program and the First-Time, Offender Shoplifting Program. Bert will be missed by all of us.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mediator Lee Hornberger received the George N. Bashara, Jr. Award for exemplary service from the State Bar of Michigan's Alternative Dispute Resolution Section at its Annual Meeting and Conference in Ann Arbor. The Award is given annually to an individual, program, or entity in recognition of exemplary service to the ADR Section and its members.

USELESS FACT

Americans spend over \$14 billion on costumes, decorations, party supplies and other Halloween paraphernalia!

Remember to eat lots of food, enjoy family and friends, and be thankful on Thanksgiving.

UPCOMING ROUNDTABLES

First of all, apologies for having to postpone the Child Protection Mediation Program Roundtable that was scheduled for Tuesday, October 7. The following roundtable schedule has been revised for the remainder of the year.

Tuesday, November 11 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm

The Child Protection Mediation roundtable will focus on specific information and knowledge necessary for facilitating Child Protection Mediation cases. In particular, recent legislation will be addressed.

Tuesday, December 2 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm

The Victim-Offender, Reconciliation Program roundtable will review both the standard VORP process, as well as the First-Time, Offender Shoplifting Program.

To register for either or both of the above roundtables, call NCM at 231.487.1771 or e-mail jane@northernmediation.org

HOLIDAY PARTY

Be certain to put **Tuesday, December 9 from 4:30pm to 6:00pm** on your calendar. NCM will be hosting its annual holiday party. As always, there will be goodies to eat, adult beverages to sip, and friendly people with whom to talk.

STAFF RETREAT

On Friday, November 14, the NCM offices will be closed so that the staff can hold its annual staff retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to review the present year and plan for the coming year. If you have any suggestions you would like to share that we could consider at our retreat, do not hesitate to contact Terri, Dixie or Jane with your ideas.

TWO FRIENDLY REMINDERS

The mediators should be the last ones to sign the Consent to Mediate form. This is for your protection. By signing after everyone else has signed, your last name is not known to the participants, which leads into the second reminder. It is best to avoid including your last name when you introduce yourself.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

"Everyone should be able to do one card trick, tell two jokes, and recite three poems in case they are ever trapped in an elevator." ~ Lemony Snicket, *Horseradish*